

# Ottawa Jewish Bulletin

Published By

THE OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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## Appeal by Mr. M. Goldberg

President's Message.



In greeting you on behalf of the residents of the West End, I am reminded that in our synagogues we face the East. It is in that direction that our hopes and prayers have been addressed for many centuries. Eretz Israel, the land of our Fathers, has been the magnet that has long attracted our aspirations. Within our own lifetime much has been done by Jewish hands and Jewish sacrifice to rebuild the Land that was once our Home. Whether this terrible war, that is now in its last phases, will in the long run have helped or hindered this work, one cannot say, for it is as yet impossible to truly assess all the many influences which have a bearing on the situation.

On the continent of Europe and elsewhere, in lands where many of our brethren have lost their lives, much havoc has been wrought, and the world is faced with the colossal task of reconstruction and rehabilitation. In this undertaking, co-operation will be the keystone in the arch of the great human structure that must be built. Let us hope that the war has taught the world this lesson: that no country, no people, can go its own way without affecting the whole world; that no country, no people, can fashion its own life without being affected by the other nations.

## LETTERS FROM OVERSEAS

Elliot Gluck writes to the Rabbi:

"The plans for the Community Centre are certainly going well and I hope it continues to prosper. I think you will find that the boys who come back from overseas will for the most part feel a greater need for religion in the deepest sense of the word. If I can generalize from my own experience and thoughts, we shall all want a philosophy of life to build on, and that philosophy can best be built on religious principles. I felt that most strongly, at a Seder service I attended in Germany. We had almost two hundred there. It was in a ruined building in a wrecked German town. And yet it was all the more precious to us because in spirit it took us from filth, destruction, poverty and hate back to our homes, at this happy time of the year. It made us all realize how important our Jewish way of life is to us all. It was not a very

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This is, of course, doubly true of the Jews, whose national destiny depends so much upon other nations of the world. But we must not use this as an excuse for not doing all we can to strengthen our inner structure. In this great country of ours, we are fortunate in that there is no need for reconstruction. Our task is one of construction, to build up our communities and our communal life. All of us are being given a golden opportunity for positive, concrete action. In our daily prayers let us continue to face in the one age-old direction, signifying our common purpose, but in our daily tasks let us turn our faces towards each other and stretch out a helping hand. For we can best build a stronger Jewish Community by helping each component part thereof to develop to the full.

Congregation Agudath Israel appreciates fully the co-operation of the Vaad Ha'ir which has sanctioned the project we have undertaken. Having lived in Ottawa for so many years, I know that we have the strength and unity of spirit to carry out what we have undertaken, and I am confident that, with your help, our project will be crowned with the fullest success.

## West End Campaign Opens Tuesday

Congregation Agudath Israel will launch its long awaited campaign to erect a Synagogue and Talmud Torah building (on the lot it purchased recently at the intersection of Byron and Holland Avenue) next Tuesday evening in the Talmud Torah hall.

From its early beginning as a minyan in a private home until its growth to a congregation of goodly size presently occupying the house of worship on Fairmont Avenue, the congregation has in the past several years made remarkable progress. It has been particularly noteworthy for the manner in which a large number of young men and women have become enthusiasts in its behalf. Along with the development of the senior group has come the gratifying increase of interest in Jewish education which was responsible for opening a branch of the Ottawa Talmud Torah in the neighbourhood. Since the synagogue had no classrooms, space was rented from the Public School Board, but it is obviously a temporary arrangement that must be remedied as speedily as possible. The need for the Talmud Torah is actually the strongest stimulus for the building campaign.

Mr. Morris Goldberg, president of the congregation and chairman of the campaign, will open the meeting at the dinner Tuesday night. The speakers will Petegorsky, Rabbi B. Kravetz and Mr. Thos. Sachs, president of the Ottawa Vaad Ha'ir. Magistrate A. H. Liefvill will act as toastmaster and Mr. David Slover will render an iroginal humorous monologue.

Reservations for the dinner will close Sunday June 10th at 2.00 P.M. Until that hour, they will be accepted by Mr. M. Goldberg (8-0934) and Mr. A. Kelman (8-4706).

## NATHAN LEVITIN, D.F.C.

Another Ottawa lad has covered himself with glory and brought new pride to our community. Flight Lieutenant Nathan Levitin, son of the late Meyer Levitin and of Mrs. M. Levitin, has been accorded the Distinguished Flying Cross for exceptional achievement in navigational operations and devotion to duty.



# The Ottawa Jewish Bulletin

Published Monthly By  
THE OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
Oscar Z. Fasman, Rabbi

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Wartime Prices and Trade Board Exemption Certificate  
No. 66, dated Feb. 9, 1943.

## TOWARDS A MORE JEWISH FUTURE

The announcement that in the west end of Ottawa a new Synagogue and Talmud Torah building is to be erected shortly will be welcome news to all who believe that the health of Jewish life depends upon the spiritual intrests of the Jewish people. Not so long ago, cynics could be heard remarking that the younger families making their homes in that neighbourhood are much more likely to busy themselves with gold clubs, social clubs and athletic clubs of various sorts and shapes than with synagogues activities. It is undeniably true that the veterans of the old school in the neighbourhood are responsible for laying the foundations of the Congregation Agudath Israel, and they had to go through the heartaches of pioneering in starting the institution. Then, however, a highly encouraging development came about. As the older men kept urging the younger people to join the Congregation and take part in its work, a few of the latter responded sympathetically and very soon afterwards brought in large groups of people in their age brackets. Yes, the very men who were generally pointed out as people who could be attracted to everything else except a synagogue proved themselves staunch supporters of the congregation. The Jewish citizens in the older synagogues of the City suddenly heard the voice of these young parents demanding that something definite be done for their children who were too far away from the central Talmud Torah.

They refused to be satisfied with the prospect of only a Sunday School or private instruction being given to a few individual children. They argued that they were members of this Jewish community, and that they were entitled to consideration in the question of establishing the coming generation in the knowledge of Judaism. The Talmud Torah Board deserves credit for heeding these requests and for undertaking an additional burden upon its budget in organizing a branch for the children of the west end.

As one reviews the history of the events just mentioned, he must feel a glow of pride in the discovery that the younger Jewish parents of Ottawa are displaying a much greater loyalty to the traditional values of our people than the morose critics of a declining generation have been willing to see in them. Granting that youth likes to find an outlet for its visions and ambitious, ought we not to rejoice that these have turned towards the spiritual truths of Israel and not away from them? It is an easy thing to speak pessimistically about the chances of a strong consciousness of Judaism in the world of tomorrow, and people will compare with a great

deal of lamentation the piety of their grandmother with the easy going habits of her great-grandchildren without attempting to understand the tremendous changes through which Jewish life has passed in the last fifty years. The fact is, that in many respects it is probable that Jewish interests have reached their lowest ebb in this generation, because of the overwhelming shock in the transfer of Jewish life from Europe to Canada, so that from this point onward the opportunity of elevating the tone lies before us. Already there are thousands of Jewish homes in America in which the children know more of Judaism and its history than do their parents, and this situation is as it should be. Certainly in the west end there are fathers and mothers who look forward proudly, to the prospect that their youngsters will be more proficient in the different fields of Jewish knowledge than they themselves. We are dealing, indeed, with a neighbourhood that may yet prove the testing ground of our destiny in Ottawa Jewish life. The beginnings are promising. The spirit there is at a high pitch of excellence. The work is being conducted with the zeal of men and women who ardently believe in the cause they have undertaken.

The Jews of Ottawa have been ever alert to the invitation of constructive Jewish effort. We have built institutions in our City that stand firm and noble in their functions. It seems a fair prediction to prophesy that the program in the west end calling for a Synagogue and Talmud Torah will add a beautiful chapter to our history. Whoever can, will no doubt wish to do his bit in making the writing of that chapter possible.

## AFTER V/E DAY

A brief month has passed since the unforgettable day when the world received the glorious news of the unconditional surrender of Germany. Following the initial festivities we have settled down to the sober task of continuing the war against Japan and of looking to the reconstruction job in Europe.

For Jews, these days have brought mixed feelings. The keen sense of being witness to divine justice once more showing itself in the world has been accompanied by the heavy grief rising out of letters now reaching our homes and telling of the irreparable losses sustained by family after family. While our Christian neighbours sorrow in many instances for the loss of their sons in war, we pass through the same kind of sorrow in the many homes where our sons fell in battle, with this heavy additional burden that we are also saying Kaddish for brothers and sisters who were brutally put to death in the Nazi camps and extermination centres.

Yet even to mourn is a luxury in which we cannot afford to indulge for to long period. There are survivors, and we must bend all our energies to repairing their fortunes. It is already clear that some of the Jewish communities in Europe propose to set up shop again in their previous homes. Naturally by contrast with the flourishing large communities that once carried on in those cities, these new groups will seem tragically weak and ineffective; yet one must admire the courage and determination of the survivors who have arisen from their low "shiva" seats to go forth and start up the machinery of communal organization. Here we have, then, one important sphere for our creative help, since assistance in a thousand forms will be required to put these communities back on their feet.



# In The Footsteps of Our Fathers

Two institutions, the Talmud Torah and the Synagogue, constitute for generations the pulsating center and heart of Jewish existence.

Even while the Temple at Jerusalem still flourished on its holy hill our great teachers gathered pupils in tiny villages and in great cities throughout the Land of Israel to expound the divine laws and the lofty ideas of our Torah. The Talmud Torah became the factory, where the young Jewish child acquired his knowledge, habits and character. In the Talmud Torah the teacher tried to implant, to instill and to inculcate all the virtues and the traditional values of our faith. There, the child became cognizant of his Jewishness and identified himself, in time of sorrow, as well as joy, with his Jewish nation.

After graduating from the Talmud Torah the spiritual center of Jewish boys and girls shifted from the Talmud Torah to the Synagogue, where they became members. The Synagogue became the power-house from which emanated every energizing impulse in the religious, social, cultural, philathropic, and in a large sense, even the economic life of Israel. Within its walls Jews gathered to study, practise charity, develop their citizenship—and pray. The Synagogue was the Ark of the Covenant, which they built and rebuilt lovingly on every spot of the earth to which their weary feet carried them.

Those two institutions were the life-blood of the Jewish people; they were the first thing they constructed and the last thing they forgot on their pilgrimage throughout the centuries.

According to the Talmud the Synagogue, as well as the Talmud Torah had to occupy the highest elevation in any town. The smallest village, if it contained but ten males was required to build a house of worship and of course a Talmud Torah.

It is therefore, indeed, very praiseworthy and commendable to see our young generation following in the footsteps of their fathers by their zealous desire to build the two eternal fortresses of Jewish life.

"Advance with this, your strength!"

Rabbi B. KRAVETZ,

Principal, Ottawa Talmud Torah.

# S A F E !

On the National Day of Thanksgiving, Ottawa Jewery rejoiced with the families of two prisoners-of-war who were reported back safe in England on that very day—Eli Baker and Raymond Snipper.

## A NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADER.

Rabbi O. Z. Fasman is happy to announce that the Ottawa Hebrew Sunday School has found a capable Superintendent in the person of Mrs. Hy Bessin to succeed Mrs. I. Zivian, who resigned from her duties because of changing her residence to Toronto.

## TALMUD TORAH PRIZES

At the recent impressive graduation of the Ottawa Talmud Torah, Dov Kravetz was awarded the Joel Zagerman Memorial Prize, awarded by the Rabbi for outstanding scholarship in the graduating class, and Harold Zelikovitz won the Anna Rill Prize, presented by Mr. Z. Rill for general proficiency.

The Benjamin Goldfield Memorial Awards will be distributed on a day to be fixed in the last week in June, when all the children who distinguished themselves in the classes during the past year will receive recognition for their work at a public gathering in the Talmud Torah.

## SABBATH CANDLES

|               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| June 8. ....  | 8.29 p.m. |
| June 15. .... | 8.33 p.m. |
| June 22. .... | 8.35 p.m. |
| June 29. .... | 8.36 p.m. |

## SERVICE PERSONNEL WELCOME

With the approach of the warm weather, the Jewish Service Personnel in this Area will be welcomed at the Tel Aviv Tennis Club after the Jewish Service Centre at 228 Albert Street closes for the summer months. Negotiations are still in progress with the proprietors of the building in the hope that the Service Centre will be able to continue in its present quarters in the beginning of the early fall.

## JEWISH BOOKS

The Junior Hadassah Groups are to be assisted by the Hadassah Council in building up a Library for circulation among the members. Mrs. Herman Roodman, Cultural Chairman, is giving a great deal of attention to the acquisition of volumes that are both instructive and interesting.

## OVERSEAS HONOR ROLL

Since the last issue of the Bulletin, two Ottawa men have arrived overseas on active service—Sgt. L. Cowan and Pte. H. Sigler.

## LADIES, PLEASE!

When women visit a session of Parliament, they are not admitted unless they wear a hat or cover their head in some way. Yet many of our women have of late grown careless in this very matter when they come to the synagogue for a wedding. Ladies, please remember to be respectful towards the sanctuary of Israel!

## DO YOU KNOW THAT

It is believed that the participation of Rabbi Fasman in the V-E Day exercises on Parliament Hill was the first time in the history of Canada that a Rabbi figured in a public affair on the Hill...

Capt. I. B. Rose was the subject of an interesting Press Report from Holland...

Mr. Michael Freedman has been doing some solid planning as Chairman of the B'Nai B'Rith Committee for Rehabilitation of Returned Service Men.

The Ottawa Council of Haddassah speaks for the largest single organizational group of the city because it represents well over four hundred members...

Parcels of food mailed to Capt. S. Cass, Administration H.Q. First Canadian Army, C.A.O., or to H. Capt. I. B. Rose, Jewish Chaplain, H.Q. First Canadian Corps, C.A.O., will help protect the remnants of Dutch Jewry from starvation...

(If you are interested personally in acquiring the benefits of a membership in the Jewish Publication Society by which you can obtain good Jewish books at a generous discount, get in touch with Mrs. O. Z. Fasman.)

In connection with its expanding program, Junior Hadassah advises the young people in the community that during the next season a study group conducted by Rabbi Fasman once a month will be open to non-members and to men as well as to members. As an experiment, two such meetings were held this spring under the chairmanship of Miss D. Blushinsky, and they were enthusiastically received.

## THE THREE WEEKS

The Three Weeks, during which period wedding ceremonies are not permitted by Jewish Law, extend June 27th to July 19th.



## Message by Talmud Torah Board Chairman

In connection with the coming campaign conducted by the Congregation Agudath Israel for a building that will accommodate the branch of the Ottawa Talmud Torah in the west end of the city, Mr. M. Zagerman, Chairman of the Talmud Torah Board, has issued the following statement:

"The Talmud Torah Board has watched with interest and satisfaction the successful work accomplished by its new branch in the west end neighbourhood of Ottawa. After the Board of Education had worked out a curriculum to meet the needs of the children in that area and succeeded in obtaining the services of Mr. J. Gordon to conduct the classes there, all of us waited to see whether the parents would take advantage of the chance we had opened to them to give to their boys and girls the intensive kind of Jewish education that the Ottawa Talmud Torah believes to be the only permanent solution to the problem of a normal Jewish future.

"Today we see that most of the parents accepted the opportunity available and that their children have covered a respectable portion of the curriculum set forth. For this reason the Board recognizes the imperative urgency of building the proper accommodations in the way of classrooms to provide for the growing enrollment that we now realize is a certainty. It is our feeling that the people in Ottawa who have the cause of Jewish education at heart will gladly support the campaign and will give generously to help it towards its goal."

### YOUR RABBI SAID

Happiness is not something you find in life; it is something you achieve... In the family the sound of rejoicing and happiness can be found, according to the marital benedictions, where the voices of both husband and wife are heard, not where the one drowns out the other... To be more than plastic clay in society, to be pilot as well as passenger, is to contribute to its betterment... Jewish education, everybody says, is the foundation of Jewish life; it is certainly treated like a foundation, buried unseen and forgotten in the earth... The formula for the restoration of a ruined life is to dedicate it to the restoration of another's ruined life.

## Greetings of Mr. Sachs

"The decision of Cong. Agudath Israel to expand its facilities of worship and Jewish education will be greeted with satisfaction by the members of our community. That this development takes place within the framework of the Vaad Ha' Ir, so that the new Synagogue will add strength to our united congregations and the Talmud Torah branch will function under the centralized authority of the Vaad Ha' Ir Talmud Torah Board, proves once more that Ottawa Jewry is distinguished by the harmony of its organizational life.

"There can be no doubt that the present campaign, conducted with the youthful enthusiasm characteristic of our youngest congregation, will reach its objective. The well-known generosity of our people will respond warmly to a cause that carries strong values of the spirit."

THOS. SACHS, Pres.

Ottawa Vaad Ha' Ir.

### READ THIS CAREFULLY!

The Beth Din of the Chief Rabbi has sent a circular letter throughout the British Empire, with a call to the rabbis of all the synagogues to read it before their congregations. It deals with the question of intermarriage, and includes this significant paragraph:

"The children of a non-Jewish mother who has not been previously received into the Jewish Faith by a recognized rabbinical authority are non-Jews in every respect. In regard to a male child of such a union, circumcision alone does not alter his religious status which is still that of the mother. Accordingly, a Mohel shall not perform circumcision in such a case, so that simple folk be not let to believe that merely by that act the child becomes Jewish."

The letter is signed by Chief Rabbi J. H. Hertz and his three world-renowned Dayanim Harris M. Lazarus, I. Abramsky and I. Grunfeld.

### TALMUD TORAH RENTAL

Mr. A. Lithwick has been doing a splendid job in managing the rental fees of the Talmud Torah. The T. T. Board has also asked him to reach an agreement with the janitor about the charges for washing the dishes after an affair.

## WEST END CAMPAIGN OPENS TUESDAY

(Continued from page 1)

impressive ceremony, from a realistic standpoint. Our meal was only faintly removed from traditional army food, but the spirit was there. The candles in front of Chaplain Cass were in a cross current of air, but they burned right through the ceremony. It seemed to symbolize the strength and endurance of our ties with home and all the things which are precious to us."

Rabbi I. B. Rose writes to the Rabbi:

"My mother wrote me of your talk about the need for help to people in Holland. Because I am the only Jewish Chaplain in Western Holland, recently liberated, I can tell you personally of the starvation of the people of this area. People are still dying of hunger. Many will need special food diets and nutritional treatment. The Jewish remnant numbering perhaps 10,000 of 200,000 (pre war) are in the most pitiable state. Those survivors had to dive under and hide for two-and-a-half to three-and-a-half years without venturing forth from their homes. Many of them are mentally unwell now. Most of them are suffering from malnutrition. Fear is still written deep on their faces. Urgent help is needed to establish them at least momentarily. Food and clothes should be sent. I have written to Mrs. Roberts asking her to take the lead in a private organization in Ottawa."

Jack Wolfe writes to the Rabbi:

"I had been told that there would be a Jewish service the next morning, being the last day of Passover, so I told my cousin about that. We met the next morning. Rabbi Rose and Dave Molot were also at the services. It sure made us all feel very homesick. The Jewish people here don't speak yiddish very much. But one thing I can say is that they are very froom. After the services everyone wanted us to go to their homes for coffee."

### REHABILITATION COMMITTEE

Sponsored by the Ottawa Lodge Bnai Brith, a committee has been formed for the purpose of assisting discharged Jewish service men to rehabilitate themselves back into normal civilian life.

Co-Chairmen: Mr. M. Freedman, Mr. E. Gittleston.

Committee: Mr. A. Lithwick, Mr. I. Goodman, Mr. H. Rubin.